Paul and Jerry Russo Gurvich the Mike Ogdens 10/27/69

Still going over files I found this memo. Here is the background: I had been in Indianapolis for a TV show, got snowed in when planes c uldn' fly, returned by a very slow and long-delayed train. On the interminable last leg from Harrisburg, I met this woman. She is a sort of ADA-peace type, one of the Jeannette Rankin Brigade whose hero was Adlai Stevenson. We got to talking and she told me this story. I asked for the memo.

You may recall I had misgivings about Russo as early as 5/67 and recorded the clearing one there-his having one of O's handbills and other literature. From that time on I was alert to info on him. From my young women informant I learned (and he confirmed) Jerry was close to Layton Martens. Jerry added what the girl did not know, that Martens gambled with him and regularly lost more than his total salary. The "star" witness fraternizing with a men under indictment in the case raised my eyebrows only. When I could I got to talking to Jerry. He must have been at one of O's picketings. He knows he has a copy of the handbill, claims he cannot now get it because his father will not let him in the house and it, like so many other things, he used as a bookmark (but if you recall the sports story I use in O in N, it was not just the handbill). Among the things Jerry has acknowledged doing for money to me is reproducing and selling wha he describes as pornography. He knew Thornley's friend and defender, Lane Caplinger. I wish it had been possible to make a real investigation of him, for from the time the chick told me of being with him and Layton together, I had the deepest doubts about him and wondered if he had been planted. That he seems always to be without money doesn't mean that he really is, true as it may be.

This connection between Russo and extremists of the right, right, people with every reason to hate Castro (and Kennedy) is further disquieting. The area of the summer camps is where the Cuban camps were two years earlier. It is an hour from N.O., longer at rush hour. If the Levin girl lived in N.O. and commuted, the Ogdens spent much time on the road, and if they were this broke, someone was paying for it. The toll each way on the Causeway is $1.00. It might be worthwhile if Jim S could check them in the N.O. city directories, or Baton Rouge. Where Ogden went in a private plane (piloted by whom?) is also rich ground for speculation. Recalling this added thing I'd forgotten, it seemed to me advisable to share these misgivings with you for whatever it may or may not suggest. That Gurvich was silent may or may not mean he filtered it out. In the end, I did get it there, to no point.